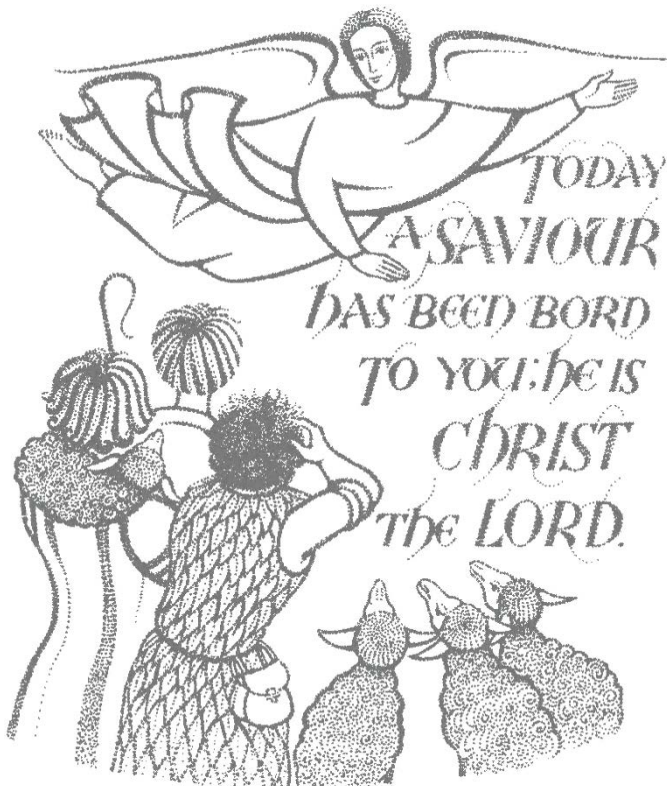


Cockpen & Carrington

# The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2012



Church of Scotland

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## PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA: 6 JANUARY – 7 APRIL 2013

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LASSWADE (10.00 am)</b>	<b>COCKPEN &amp; CARRINGTON (11.30 am)</b>	<b>ROSEWELL (please check times below)</b>
<b>06.01.13</b> Epiphany	<i>Service at Rosewell</i>	Rev Melville Schofield	Rev Melville Schofield (& Sunday School) (10 am)
<b>13.01.13</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	Rev Melville Schofield (11.30 am)
<b>20.01.13</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	Rev Melville Schofield (11.30 am)
<b>27.01.13</b>	<b>MINISTER (COMMUNION)</b>	Rev Melville Schofield	<i>Service at Lasswade (10 am)</i>
<b>03.02.13</b>	<i>Service at Rosewell</i>	<b>MINISTER (COMMUNION)</b>	Rev Melville Schofield (10 am)
<b>10.02.13</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	Eddie Yeoman (11.30 am)
<b>17.02.13</b> First Sunday in Lent	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	Rev W Armitage (11.30 am)
<b>24.02.13</b>	Martin McKean	Martin McKean	<i>Service at Lasswade (10 am)</i>
<b>03.03.13</b>	<i>Service at Rosewell</i>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER (10 am) &amp; Sunday School</b>
<b>10.03.13</b> Mothering Sunday	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	Rev Melville Schofield (11.30 am)
<b>17.03.13</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	Rev Melville Schofield (11.30 am)
<b>24.03.13</b> Palm Sunday	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<i>Service at Lasswade (10 am)</i>
<b>31.03.13</b> Easter Day	Rev W Armitage	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>MINISTER (10 am)</b>
<b>07.04.13</b>	<i>Service at Rosewell</i>	Rev Melville Schofield	<b>MINISTER (COMMUNION) (10 am) &amp; Sunday School</b>

**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICES, 24 DECEMBER 2012:**  
ROSEWELL 4.00 pm LASSWADE 7.00 pm COCKPEN 11.20 pm

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE AT BONNYRIGG PARISH CHURCH  
ON FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2013 AT 7.30 PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2013 – DETAILS FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES  
(25-29 March 2012) TO BE ISSUED LATER**

**Office:** 156 Carnethie Street, ROSEWELL, EH24 9AH  
**Manse:** 2 Links Road, Port Seton, PRESTONPANS, EH32 0HA  
**Telephone:** 01875 819544 **Email:** mzross@btinternet.com

*Dear Friends,*

Christmas is nearly upon us again. We should reflect on the enormity of the true message of Christmas: the incarnation of Jesus Christ who is the only Son of God, the King and Head of the Church and our Saviour and Lord. It is easy to become cynical about commercialism and the aim to create a “perfect” Christmas, but the circumstances of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem were far from perfect – even culminating with Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus having to flee from King Herod’s soldiers as refugees to Egypt.

Christmas can be difficult time, especially for those who have recently lost a loved one. Such people are in my prayers. My wife suffered a miscarriage this autumn; this has been extremely distressing for both of us. At times of great upset, we ask that age-old question “why” – but despite the pain I believe that God is gracious and loving. The prayers of so many people have been a great help. Prayer is powerful; give thanks for what is good and ask God for help in times of difficult. *“He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.” (2 Corinthians 1:4)*

The Christmas service times were published in the Harvest edition of “The Link” magazine; please note that the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight at Cockpen Church will now be on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 7pm (not 16<sup>th</sup>). The Nativity Play services will be at 10 am at Lasswade on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December and 11.30 am at Cockpen on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The Christmas Eve Carol services will be at 4pm at Rosewell, 7pm at Lasswade and 11.20pm at Cockpen.

I encourage you to please come regularly to worship on Sundays. Worship and prayer are vital parts of our lives as Christians. Kristina and I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and prayerful good wishes for 2013.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev Matthew Ross, Minister*

## Moderator for 2013-2014 announced



The Reverend Lorna Hood, minister at the North Parish Church in Renfrew, has been nominated to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Mrs Hood will take up the office of Moderator on Saturday 18th May 2013 on the opening day of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Mrs Hood was born in Irvine, Ayrshire, in 1953. She was educated at Kilmarnock Academy and the University of Glasgow graduating with an MA in 1974 and BD (Honours) in 1977.

She began her church career as a probationer assistant at St Ninian's Church in Corstorphine, Edinburgh and was ordained there in April 1978. In 1979 Mrs Hood was called to Renfrew North Parish Church where she has served for the last 33 years. She was also appointed a Queen's Chaplain in 2008.

For 22 years she served as chaplain in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley where she was responsible for the Women's & Children's Directorate and was part of a team which pioneered the care plan for those who had suffered loss during pregnancy or shortly after with an annual memorial service. For this work they were awarded in 1992 the Association of British Insurers Medical Community Award. Mrs Hood has also been actively involved with the local hospice ACCORD speaking at fundraising events and dinners and supporting staff and patients when called upon.

Mrs Hood has served on various committees in the Church of Scotland. In 2001 she was appointed a General Trustee and is presently Vice Convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee and Vice Convener of the Business Committee of the General Assembly.

In 2011 she completed her training for the Church of Scotland's mediation project, "A Place for Hope" and has served in various capacities, including at present a group set up to consider the theology of mediation and reconciliation.

Mrs Hood married her husband Peter in 1979 and the couple have two children, Laura and Peter.

## Lasswade's Former Missionary Partner

Many of you will remember Catherine Nicol who was our missionary partner in Pakistan until 2001 when she retired after 40 years of working there with girls and young women. She came back to Scotland then but couldn't settle so returned to Pakistan where she is still helping people. When she was on leave, she came to church and to Lasswade Guild to tell us about her work.

Now she is to receive the Tamgha-e-Quaid-e-Azam, or medal of the Great Leader, a civil award conferred by the Government of Pakistan on those who have attained academic distinction in the fields of science, arts, literature, or distinction in the fields of sports and nursing; or for rendering dedicated services with selfless devotion in human rights and public services. Awards are announced on August 14<sup>th</sup> (Independence Day) every year and the investiture takes place on March 23<sup>rd</sup> the following year (Pakistan Day).

If you get 'Life and Work' you will already have seen this but for those who do not see the magazine, the following is taken from it.

Andrew McLellan, Convenor of the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, visited Pakistan in 2011 and met Catherine. He said: "She lives in a girls' hostel, St Columba's RTC. I sat at her table and watched an unstoppable flow of people coming in and out all day with problems, questions and requests.

"These were not trivial matters: often the safety of a very vulnerable child was at stake. With patience and cheerfulness and in flawless Urdu (as far as I could tell) Catherine listened, thought and acted – over and over again.

"This award is very exciting for us as this is a very high level of recognition and the whole of the Church of Scotland should be celebrating this. Catherine left for Pakistan in 1961 and the sacrifice and contribution she has made to the lives of generations of people in Sialkot should not be underestimated."

Sheila Turner

## Glasgow Disabled Scouts

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone from Lasswade and Rosewell who sponsored me for the Great Scottish Run 10k race. I made £245 for the Glasgow Disabled Scouts' Summer Camp 2013 to Holland. Overall, the race made £5000 towards this cause, which we hope will allow about 40 physically disabled boys from across Glasgow to spend two weeks at camp in Holland, with sufficient numbers of helpers and scouters. Please see our website for what we have been up to at [www.glasgowdisabledscouts.org](http://www.glasgowdisabledscouts.org), or [flickr.com/77thglasgow](https://www.flickr.com/photos/77thglasgow/). I will also place a small leaflet in both Lasswade and Rosewell which show what the Glasgow Disabled Scouts actually is.

Ross Lyall

## Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

As I indicated in the last issue of The Link Moira and I shall be in Singapore for the second part of December. We are there to meet two new members of the family, Sebastian Fraser Dryden and Montgomery Ross Dryden who were born on 20<sup>th</sup> October and we also look forward to seeing three year old Hamish again as well as their parents Andrew and Rene.

It will be an experience spending Christmas in this part of the world, practically on the Equator, in humid temperatures. Will we be singing "In the bleak midwinter"? Possibly, as the carols which are sung by the Christian Community are those which have been largely imported and brought in by Christian settlers from the UK and other countries. Last year I was in Singapore in November and I made inquiries about any carols written by Singaporeans, thinking I could use them here but the carols the locals were singing were mainly those familiar to us. A lot of decorations go up early but trading continues on Christmas Day itself as the Island City caters for so many diverse cultures. So it will be interesting.

We shall be missing the Christmas services here and I hope these go well. Andrew Jack will be covering for me at Lasswade and I am extremely grateful to him. Andrew is always very willing to help but he is also very busy with choir commitments with Cockpen and The Dalkeith Singers, not to mention his own personal arrangements at this time. Thank you, Andrew, not just for covering at Christmas but at other times throughout the year. I really do appreciate it.

I would also like to thank our regular choir for all their help and encouragement week by week and for enriching the worship with their singing. As I have said before, without the support of these ladies and gentlemen I would have given up well before now. My thanks are also extended to those from both congregations who augment the choir for special music. I am very grateful to you for giving your time and talents.

One carol which may be sung over the Christmas period is "It came upon the midnight clear". Our Minister usually has this hymn on Remembrance Sunday as well. The references to "the woes of sin and strife rolling over two thousand years of wrong" are very relevant today - as are the words "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight" in the carol "O little town of Bethlehem".

The writer of "It came upon a midnight clear" is Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) who was a Unitarian parish minister. In 1838 he supplied the pulpit for the First Congregational Church in Wayland, Massachusetts. The congregation were very impressed by his voice and character that they extended a call to him and he was ordained there in 1839.

Although he was happy in Wayland, with a growing family to support he felt he needed a larger, and more prosperous, charge and to this end he had a good

ministry in Lancaster between 1840-47 but that was cut short by illness and depression. He was unable to preach in a voice loud enough to be heard in a large building so he returned to Wayland for recuperation and resumed his ministry there in 1848. That lasted until 1865.

He wrote his well known carol in 1849 at a time when he was feeling low. Various external problems contributed to his feelings, such as the recent war between the USA and Mexico and this incident was at the forefront of his writing about a world as dark and “full of sin and strife” and not hearing the Christmas message. Incidentally, the second half of verse three of this carol as it appears in CH4 has been altered from the original which was:-

“And man at war with man hears not  
the love song which they bring;  
O hush the noise ye men of strife  
and hear the angels sing”

Mr. Sears also believed that God does reach down from a great distance the human race but His “peace” is dependant on a human response.

I am aware that there are, as always, families within our midst for whom this time will not be easy. The Choir join me in hoping that all our readers and their families will experience the peace which this season can bring.

HLRD

## Adventures abroad.

Like many others from our three churches, May & I have been fortunate enough to go on several holiday cruises and cruise directors delight in telling passengers of the silly and stupid things cruisers can and do. Here are two which we witnessed for ourselves.

On our return to the ship one passenger from the United states (where else!) complained bitterly about getting wet after a walk in the rain forest.

On another occasion when we were one of three ships in port, another exclaimed in a loud voice on our return “How do we know which one is ours?” despite the fact that each had its

name and company prominently displayed.



Ian Murdoch



## Lasswade Flower Rota

January 13<sup>th</sup> Mary Sharpe  
20<sup>th</sup> Nita Adams  
27<sup>th</sup> Norma Sangster

February 10<sup>th</sup> Betty Burns  
17<sup>th</sup> Cathie Drysdale  
24<sup>th</sup> Pat Lawrie

March 10<sup>th</sup> Margaret Waugh  
17<sup>th</sup> Ann Macdonald  
24<sup>th</sup> Lynda Williamson  
31<sup>st</sup> Liz Wilden



This is the time of year when we enjoy the beautiful autumn colours in the parks and gardens. It prepares us for the winter months so that spring really does awaken our senses with new growth and colour.

I have prepared part of the flower rota for Lasswade and would be happy to include any new names. If you would like to be included on the rota, please speak to me and I will be happy to add your name.

Moira Dryden

## If God Should Go On Strike

How good is it that God above has never gone on strike  
Because He was not treated fair in things He didn't like;  
If only once He had sat down, and said, "That's it! I'm through;  
I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do –  
I'll give my orders to the sun –  
Cut off the heat supply:  
And to the moon, "Give no more light, And run the oceans dry."  
Then just to make things really tough, and put the pressure on,  
"Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone."  
You know, He would be justified, if fairness was the game,  
For no one has been more abused or met with such disdain  
Than God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me  
With all the favours of His grace,  
And everything for free!  
Men say they want a better deal,  
And so 'on strike' they go;  
But what a deal we've given God,  
To whom all things we owe.  
We don't care who we hurt, or harm to gain the things WE like  
BUT what a mess we'd all be in  
IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE.

*E Malcolmson, Open Bible Fellowship, Newcastle, NI*

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# COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

## BAPTISMS

We were delighted to welcome the following who, along with parents, families and supporters joined us at recent Baptismal Services. We hope that all felt happy being amongst us at such a special time.

- 19<sup>th</sup> August - Sofia Catherine Farrell Baird and Harrison Patrick Robert Baird.  
Children of Shaun and Sarah - Jane.
- 16<sup>th</sup> September - Ashley Cameron Edwards,  
Laura RoseAnn Edwards,  
Chloe Isabell Samantha Edwards  
Mark Stewart Edwards.  
Children of Mark and Claire
- 21<sup>st</sup> October - Stuart Robert Skilbeck, infant son of Stuart and Claire.  
Rory Papakyriakou, infant son of Kosmas and Emma.  
Riley Alan Elliot, infant son of Alexander and Louise Marie.

All were baptized by the Minister.

**'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'**

## WEDDINGS

We should have had some wedding information for the magazine but, quite a few for 2012 were cancelled. The list for 2013 is already quite lengthy. (see Church website at [www.church.cockpen.co.uk](http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk) for information and advice on weddings for all three of the Churches).

## BEREAVEMENTS

It is with much sadness that we record the following deaths of members of our Congregation –

*Mrs. Anna Nicol, Maryfield Place (September, 2012)*  
*Mrs. Mary Mann, Carrington (October, 2012).*

We continue to pray for these families and, any others from our Congregation(s) (and outwith) who grieve at this time of loss. As a Church, we are here for any who feel that we can help in any way.

**'Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'.**

## Sam Greer

We have been totally overwhelmed by the tributes paid to Sam and by the letters, cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy received at this time of loss. It has been a great comfort to all the family to know how well thought of he was. He will be missed so much by everyone.

Dot, Jim and the family.

## Church Dance

The dance was held in the Masonic Hall, Bonnyrigg on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October and was once again a great night with many old and, new friends present. This has been a twice yearly event for many years, the early dances having originally been held in Carrington Village Hall which was always good fun - with the 'bus trip' there and back. The Masonic Hall is an ideal central venue now and, we are grateful to the Lodge for this facility. These functions were never intended to be 'profit making' but, over the years quite a lot of money has been raised and, has helped the Church (and others) in many ways.

Our 'cheer leader' Jean, along with a good, small team, have ensured the continued success each time and, we look forward to Jean's return in 2013 after a lengthy recuperation spell.

Date of next dance will be confirmed soon.

G.S.

## COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2012

As I write the clocks are about to change and the dark nights are coming upon us one again. Let us hope that the winter weather is reasonably kind to our Christmas services, as it was last year but definitely not the one before!

This year's musical programme will be following the familiar pattern, so here are the dates for your diary:

### Monday 10 December

This will be the date for our always popular **Guild Annual Carol Party**, starting at its usual time of 7.30 pm in the Church Hall in Dundas Street. This is very much

an open evening, and male voices will be made particularly welcome for the audience participation! In line with tradition, this will be first chance to hear the choir's musical offerings for this year and we will be performing a number of new items from around the world. As usual, the seasonal refreshments will be one of the main attractions of the evening, so your efforts will I'm sure be well rewarded.

### **Sunday 23 December**

Our Christmas Family Service with the children's **Nativity Play** will take place at our usual morning time of 11.30 am. The production values seem to rise every year, so expectations will be high. This is always one of our most popular services, so come in plenty of time to make sure of a seat!

At 7.30 pm that evening our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will take place, which along with the children's service is always one of the central parts of Christmas worship. As ever, the service will take place entirely by candlelight and falling as it does this year so close to Christmas itself I am sure it will have a very special atmosphere. There will be ample opportunity to join in the singing of the traditional hymns and carols, as well as hearing the choir in a selection of Christmas music from around the world, which this year will include several items which are new to our repertoire.

### **Friday 24 December**

At the time of writing our timetable for the first part of Christmas Eve remains to be confirmed, but the choir fully expected to have one or two carol singings to perform before we reach the church, as in years past. The traditional **Watchnight Service** will take place in time honoured fashion at 11.20 pm. The well-established mix of carols and readings will take us up to midnight and the ringing of the church bell to mark the coming of Christmas Day. Attendances have remained high in recent years despite the sometimes very challenging weather and we hope as many as possible of you will join us once again.

Our own choir will be reinforced for these events by a number of friends from the Dalkeith Singers and elsewhere, as has been the case for a few years past now. We really appreciate their making time to join us and help us spread the spirit of Christmas.

**Graham Burnside**  
**Organist**

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## 1. WE'RE BACK

We returned to a wonderful Family Service at Lasswade Church in August. We'd had such an amazing summer with the Olympic & Paralympic Games in London so we had a welcome back to Team SS. All of the Sunday School, including adults(!), dressed up as athletes and we were welcomed back in to church with Herbert playing 'Chariots of Fire'. We were all so surprised to see in the congregation members of the Royal Family and really appreciate Matthew arranging this surprise for us. Her Majesty, The Queen, Prince Charles, Prince William and Prince Harry all mingled with the congregation. A particular surprise to see Prince Harry who had recently been in the tabloids! Sincere thanks to Ian & May Murdoch/Charlie Adams/ Dot Spence and Walter Culton for assisting us!

This was a real family occasion and Herbert kindly suggested suitable hymns to sing to celebrate our return - we also did the musical programme at our Family service at Cockpen in October.

## 2. HARVEST

Yet another amazing harvest service in September. The generosity of our congregation is quite overwhelming. There were more tinned goods than ever for Jericho House. Their reaction is so heart-warming and they couldn't thank us enough (see their letter elsewhere in the magazine). We were also able to give our own members of the congregation some fresh produce and these gifts were also much appreciated.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

## 3. VISIT BY SUNDAY SCHOOL ELDER

Bill Brown is one of our Sunday School Elders and came along to Sunday School recently. It's always a joy to see Bill and he brought along Carbon the Copy Cat! Bill had some wonderful illustrations and taught us a song. Poor Carbon wants to be like every other animal or bird instead of himself. Bill told us that we are all unique and God's made us that way and we shouldn't try to copy anyone but just be ourselves.

Thanks Bill.

#### **4. CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS**

At the time of writing, plans are as chaotic as normal for Christmas! What we do know is we'll be at **Lasswade Church on Sunday 16 December at 10am** and **Cockpen & Carrington Church on Sunday 23 December at 11.30am**. We look forward to seeing you at either or both services.

#### **5. PANTO**

100 of us are off to the pantomime at the Kings Theatre on Sunday 2 December matinee performance at 1pm. We expect to have great fun watching *Mother Goose* with Allan Stewart, Andy Gray & Grant Stott. We still have a few tickets left, so please contact Rosalind urgently if you want to come along.

Matthew has organised a combined Church service at Rosewell Church on 2 December, so you will be able to go to church and still make the panto!

#### **6. CHILD PROTECTION**

Since the last edition of "The Link" magazine, the media have reported a series of horrific events concerning children in wider society. It is therefore important that we give you some assurance about the care of your children when they are at Sunday School. All of our teachers and staff working with your children have had Enhanced Disclosure checks as required by the Church of Scotland. This has now been superseded by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG) - this has been mentioned previously in the magazine. Our people will join the PVG Scheme some time over the next 3 years from October 2012. We would expect that a priority will be given to those of us in Sunday School.

Your child's care and welfare is important to us which is why we encourage parents to join us in Sunday School and see what we do - you will always be made welcome.

This is a really difficult subject and if anyone has any concerns about anything we do in Sunday School, it is important you raise this with our Child Protection Officer who is Dorothy Spence from Lasswade or our Minister.

#### **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: POLICY STATEMENT ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Church of Scotland has a deep concern for the wholeness and well being of each individual. It seeks to safeguard the welfare of all people,

regardless of age, who come into contact with the Church and its organisations. It is the responsibility of each individual within the fellowship of the Church to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children and young people.

## Jericho House Letter

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**JERICHO BENEDICTINE SOCIETY**

**The Compassion of Jesus.**

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Jericho House  
53, Lothian Street  
EDINBURGH, EH1 1HB

☎ 0131 225 8230

5<sup>th</sup> November 2012

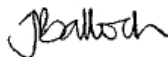
Ms R Dolan  
24 Rowan Gardens  
Bonnyngg  
Midlothian EH19 3DX

Dear Ms Dolan

On behalf of everyone at Jericho House I would like to say a belated 'thank you' for the kind thoughts of the Cockpen and Carrington Church and Sunday School and generous donation delivered to us on 23 September. All donations are much appreciated and are put to good use.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely



June Balloch  
Unit Manager

# Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

I can't believe we are onto the Christmas issue of the Link, time just runs away these days.

## December 2012

9<sup>th</sup> Susan McKechnie  
16<sup>th</sup> Nancy Richardson  
23<sup>rd</sup> D. Peat

## January 2013

6<sup>th</sup> I. Ramsay  
13<sup>th</sup> Barbara McInnes  
20<sup>th</sup> Jean Sharpe  
27<sup>th</sup> Lyn Hanson

## February

3<sup>rd</sup> Ian Fowler  
10<sup>th</sup> Barbara & Liz Mills  
17<sup>th</sup> Peat Family  
24<sup>th</sup> Free

## March

3<sup>rd</sup> Maria Hall  
10<sup>th</sup> Liz Mills  
17<sup>th</sup> Cathie Fisher



Now it will soon be Easter. Thank you to all of you who participate in making our Church so beautiful every week.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Irene*

## Cake Stall

Once again we had a very successful cake stall on 25<sup>th</sup> October raising £216:35. The next dates at the Pitcairn Centre are - **22<sup>nd</sup> November and, 13<sup>th</sup> December.**

Why not come along and buy some goodies!

As usual, any goods for the stall should be handed in between 9 - 9.30 on the morning of the sale.

On behalf of the team, can I say a big Thank You to all who have supported this venture in any way during the year and, indeed, since we started so many years ago.

Wishing you all our best wishes for the Festive Season.

*Helen, Isobel, Wilma and Jean (who is 'on leave' at the moment).*

**Late news** - The 2013 dates have now been confirmed as **31<sup>st</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> March.**



# THE HOLY HIKERS

*After a day's walk everything  
has twice its usual value  
George Macauley Trevelyan*



*We have only had two walks since the last issue of "The Link" so there's not really a lot to tell. Or is there?*

*Our walk in September was most unusual and a bit spooky. I have always wanted to visit Gilmerton Cove and on that day we did.*

*Gilmerton Cove is situated on the left hand side of the main road just before the crossroads at the Superbowl. Guided Tours are run by Rosslyn Tours under the auspices of Gilmerton Heritage Trust which is a voluntary body formed in 1997 to promote heritage sites within Gilmerton conservation village. It is a maze of rooms and passages that lie hidden beneath the village. Legend has it that in 1724, local blacksmith George Paterson carved tunnels and seating areas from the sandstone bedrock. He and his family lived there even though it was his workshop. Speculation is rife as to its disputed origins. Was it a Covenanter's Church or a Smuggler's Den or an illegal whisky still? Or was it connected to the Hellfire Club or even a secret Masonic Lodge? Or was it just the blacksmith's workshop and a family home? None of these questions were answered for us but the tour was fascinating and we enjoyed a walk in Moredun woods afterwards.*

*We had a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September when we arranged our new programme of walks for the winter months.*

*Our first one of the new session was to Clovenfords near Galashiels. The day before the walk was extremely wet and proved to be a rather muddy walk but nevertheless enjoyable.*

*The following future walks are:*

*10<sup>th</sup> Novemer - A local walk led by Densie & Ian*

*8<sup>th</sup> December - Braid burn led by Hilary & Glen*

*12<sup>th</sup> January - Cousland Circular led by Helen & Walter*

*9<sup>th</sup> February - T B A led by Dot & Jim*

*9<sup>th</sup> March - Rullion Green led by Dot & Jim*

*Happy Hiking,*

*Jim Scott*

**Thanks.**

*I would like to thank everyone for the cards and flowers sent to Dot recently during her illness. Recovery is slow but she is making progress and hopes to be back to her old self in the near future.*

*Jim.*

## **AUTUMN DANCE**

Though never intended to be a fund raising venture the twice-yearly dances have generated a good sum for our projects over the years and the one held in October increased that amount by just over £400.00

Many thanks have to be made to the dancers from the Ex Serviceman's Club and the Pitcairn Centre for their continued support and of course to Duncan McBain for his excellent musical skills. Thanks also to those who donated prizes and helped in the kitchen as well as Walter and Ronnie for selling the raffle tickets.

Still under orders from Jean, Dorothy, Wilma and I were able to carry out our usual duties but are all looking forward to Jean taking the helm in person again for the SPRING FLING in March.

Helen Renton

## **Bric A Brac**

If you're looking for a bargain come along to the Bric a Brac at the Church Hall, Dundas Street on Thursday mornings between 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Many thanks

to everyone involved during the year.

We will have a break after the 29<sup>th</sup> November for a few weeks until mid January. (A chance for everyone who works so hard to re-charge the batteries!!).

Best wishes for the Festive Season.

*The Thursday Team.*

# COCKPEN & CARRINGTON GUILD

## Report - December 2012

Our session started with our usual Service of Dedication held within the Church Service conducted by the Minister Reverend Matthew Ross.

Our first meeting was on the following day and our Speaker was Reverend Bill

Armitage who spoke on the subject of Faith to highlight our theme 'Whose We Are And Whom We Serve' and was well attended by our members.

Once again our Secretary Nancy Richardson has put together a very varied and interesting programme of events for our 2012/2013 session. We are most grateful for her time and excellence in providing this.

We had a very interesting evening hearing of 'Polio Eradication' by Ms Kate Keter and the following meeting our very own member Kate Devlin had everyone spellbound with her photography skills and the show stopper was definitely her 'Floral Notes' production. Kate filmed flowers from around the country and abroad whilst travelling, setting them to music and produced what can only be described as superb. A very gifted lady when it comes to photography and its presentation.

Our other meetings include a speaker on the subject of 'Archibald Charteris' – Life and Work Founder, then our Financial Meeting when we have a Bring and Buy and Craft Night.

Our Carol Evening will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December this year and as is customary will be led by our Organist, Graham Burnside and the Choir. We hope that as many of the Congregation and friends will join us for what we know will be a wonderful evening and more so by the fact that this will be our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Carol Concerts. Where does the time go?

At the opening meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> we have a Nibbles and Natter Evening and the following speakers take us through to the end of February:-

Grace McLeod – unknown subject

Teapot Trust – speaker to be confirmed

Reverend Tom Gordon- 'Stories for Now, Lessons for Always'

As you can see we have a very interesting programme of topics and we would love to see some new members come along and join us. You will be made most welcome and I can assure you of a good night out.

May our Guild, with God's help, continue to flourish.

Liz Mills  
Convener

## From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

As you know, I've included a few stories from the above book in previous issues of 'The Link' and would like to share one more with you. I have enjoyed these books very much and would commend them to you. **G.S.**

### 1<sup>ST</sup> Corinthians Ch. 3, verses 16 - 19.

Behind the carved oak pulpit in the old Church, I noticed a mark on the worn wall. At first glance, I thought it was just a random roughness, a shadow on the stone. Then, I realised it was the outline of a cross. It must have hung there for years and, when taken down, it left the mark on the wall.

As individual Christians, we leave a mark. Most of us lead unremarkable lives. Actually, I'm not so sure of that. When you get to know people you find few who are 'ordinary'. No-one is exactly like another. Each is remarkable in individual experience. Each of us has something of value to give. But, we lead unspectacular lives, rarely producing headlines in the newspapers. Yet, our presence in the world, our faithful performance of the little acts of daily living, makes its mark.

There are times when we feel useless. We can't stop the steamroller of world events without getting flattened. No-one listens to the thin sound of our protest. But, **'your living shall not be in vain'**, as the song puts it. We make our mark and, however small it is, it's **our** mark, and the world will never be quite the same again.

God grant the mark we leave is the mark of the cross.

*Lord, I find it hard to believe it matters,  
The little mark I make on the world,  
I'm so caught up in things I can't control.  
Can't even understand the problem half the time.  
I feel lost, swallowed up, my efforts useless.*

*I may not see its cosmic breadth,  
Or deep significance - sounds pompous anyway -  
But in the faithful living out and quiet affirmation  
Of this day's duty, lies worth and joy.  
And on some wall a mark is made,  
A mark of love, shaped like a cross.*

*From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew.*

# The difference between COMPLETE vs FINISHED

No dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. However, in a recent linguistic conference held in London, England, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world: Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the clear winner.

His final challenge was this: Some say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. Please explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand.

Here is his astute answer: "When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. But, when you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

## Darwin's Mistake

Three monkeys sat on a monkey nut tree  
Discussing things that are meant to be.  
One said to the others, now listen you two,  
There's a strange rumour that can't be true.

It's said man's descended from our noble race;  
The very idea, it's a dire disgrace.  
No monkey ever deserted his wife,  
Or starved her children or ruined it's life.

And it's never been known for a mother monkey  
To leave her babies, while she could party.  
Or pass them round from one to another,  
Still they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see  
A monkey fence off a monkey nut tree;  
And letting the nuts all go to waste,  
Depriving all other monkeys of a taste.



Other thing you'll never see,  
A monkey go out at night on a spree,  
Or use a club, a gun or a knife  
To take another monkey's life.

Aye, man's descended, they say he's the boss,  
But brother, he's not descended from us!

Please send your news to the Editors for the Easter Issue of "The Link"  
magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk  
by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the latest.

## Editor's thanks

We'd like to say thanks to Lynda, who for the past few years has been one of the editors of this magazine helping draw all your contributions together, and correcting all our grammatical errors where she saw fit. We'll apologise in advance to her for any we failed to spot in this issue (sheryl none) [*sic*].

Willie & John

## Paraprosdokian

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anti-climax.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Some people are like Slinkies ... not really good for anything, but you can't help smiling when you see one tumble down the stairs.

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

# Painting the Church

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time. Eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid; and because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by tell-tale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried,

"Oh, God, Oh, God, forgive me. What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke,

(you're going to love this)

"Repaint! Repaint!  
And thin no more!"

"Blessed are the cracked,  
for they are the ones who let in the light."

## USED STAMP COLLECTION

Just a reminder that there are collection boxes at the doors of the church and church hall for used stamps.

These are taken to the Mission Aid office to be sold and the monies raised help fund some of their projects.

If you have the time please trim the stamps with a ¼" border of envelope.

Many thanks to all those who support this project.

Dorothy Bennett

# Find The Differences!

